Serial No. 10/710,806 Examiner: Carlos Lugo August 4, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3676

Filed:

Page 2 of 7

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Previously Presented) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 41, wherein the primary actuator comprises a handle, and the first user interaction portion comprises a handle hand grip region.
- 3. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 2, wherein the secondary actuator comprises a trigger mounted to the handle, and the second user interaction portion comprises a trigger hand grip region.
- 4. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 3, wherein during the attempted movement of the primary actuator out of the latched position, the user grasps both the handle hand grip region and the trigger hand grip region and moves the trigger hand grip region towards the handle hand grip region to move the trigger from the secure position to the release position.
- 5. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 4, wherein the trigger is pivotally mounted to the handle.
- 6-15. (Cancelled)
- (Previously Presented) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 41, 16. wherein the secondary actuator comprises a button connected to the latch through a pivot arm pivotally mounted the primary actuator.

Serial No. 10/710,806 Examiner: Carlos Lugo Filed: August 4, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3676

Page 3 of 7

17. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 16, wherein the latch comprises a detent that is positioned within the latch receiver when the latch is in the active condition.

- 18. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 17, wherein the attempted movement of the primary actuator from the latched position causes depression of the button and movement of the detent out of the latch receiver.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 41 and further comprising a latch biasing member that biases the latch into the latch receiver.
- 20. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 19, wherein the latch is magnetic, and the secondary actuator comprises a magnet that draws the latch from the latch receiver when the secondary actuator is in the release position.
- 21. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 20, wherein the latch biasing member comprises a magnet, wherein the magnet of the secondary actuator is stronger than the magnet of the latch biasing member.
- 22. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 20, wherein the latch biasing member comprises a spring that surrounds the latch and is held in place by a retaining head on an end of the latch.
- 23. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 19, wherein the latch biasing member comprises a magnet, and the latch is magnetic.
- 24. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 23 and further comprising a second latch biasing member operably mounted to the latch to bias the latch to the inactive condition, wherein attraction of the latch to the magnet is stronger than the bias of the second latch biasing member.

Serial No. 10/710,806 Examiner: Carlos Lugo Filed: August 4, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3676

Page 4 of 7

- 25. (Previously Presented) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 41, wherein the primary actuator comprises a paddle, and the secondary actuator comprises a trigger pivotally mounted to the paddle.
- 26. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 25, wherein the trigger comprises a latch mounted thereto and operable between an active condition, wherein the latch prevents movement of the paddle from the latched position, and an inactive condition, wherein the latch allows movement of the paddle from the latched position, and wherein movement of the trigger from the secure position to the release position inactivates the latch.
- 27. (Original) The vehicular door handle assembly according to claim 26, wherein the latch extends through an aperture in a door panel of the vehicular door and comprises a detent that abuts an inside surface of the door panel when the latch is in the active condition, and wherein pivotal movement of the trigger from the secure position to the release position removes the detent from abutting contact with the inside surface the door panel to inactivate the latch so that the paddle can move from the latched position to the opened position.

28-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) A vehicular door handle assembly for selectively opening a vehicle door, the door handle assembly comprising:

a primary actuator adapted to be mounted to a vehicle door, wherein the primary actuator has a first user interaction portion for moving the primary actuator between a latched position and an opened position, and wherein the vehicle door is opened by a user by moving the user interaction portion of the primary actuator between the latched position and the opened position; and

a secondary actuator operatively associated with the primary actuator and comprising a cam having at least one pair of arms that define a groove therebetween, wherein the secondary actuator has a second user interaction portion for moving the secondary actuator between a secure position, wherein movement of the primary actuator from the latched position to the

Serial No. 10/710,806 Examiner: Carlos Lugo

Filed: August 4, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3676

Page 5 of 7

opened position is prevented, and a release position, wherein the primary actuator can move from the latched position to the opened position;

a latch operatively associated with the secondary actuator comprising at least one flange slidingly received by the groove to effect the linear movement of the latch, and operable between an active condition, wherein the latch prevents movement of the primary actuator from the latched position, and an inactive condition, wherein the latch allows movement of the primary actuator from the latched position;

a latch receiver adapted to be mounted to the vehicle door adjacent the primary actuator such that the latch is partially received by the latch receiver and partially received by the primary actuator when the latch is in the active condition;

a biasing member that biases the secondary actuator to the secure position and the latch to the active condition, wherein movement of the secondary actuator against the bias of the biasing member to the release position withdraws the latch from the latch receiver to inactivate the latch;

wherein the second user interaction portion is aligned with at least a portion of the first user interaction portion so that attempted movement by a user of the primary actuator out of the latched position first causes the secondary actuator to be moved from the secure position to the release position, wherein movement of the secondary actuator from the secure position to the release position inactivates, the latch secondary actuator is pivotally mounted to the primary actuator, and pivotal movement of the secondary actuator relative to the primary actuator translates into linear movement of the latch relative to the latch receiver.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A vehicular door handle assembly for selectively opening a vehicle door, the door handle assembly comprising:

a primary actuator adapted to be mounted to an exterior surface of a vehicle door, wherein the primary actuator has a first user interaction portion for moving the primary actuator between a latched position and an opened position, and wherein the vehicle door is opened by a

Serial No. 10/710,806

Filed: August 4, 2004 Group Art Unit: 3676

Page 6 of 7

user by moving the user interaction portion of the primary actuator between the latched position adjacent the exterior surface and the opened position away from the exterior surface;

Examiner:

Carlos Lugo

a secondary actuator pivotally mounted to the primary actuator, wherein the secondary actuator has a second user interaction portion for moving the secondary actuator between a secure position, wherein movement of the primary actuator from the latched position to the opened position is prevented, and a release position, wherein the primary actuator can move from the latched position to the opened position;

a latch associated with the secondary actuator for movement alongside the exterior surface from one of the secure position and the release position to the other of the secure position and the release position;

a latch receiver adapted to be mounted to the vehicle door adjacent the primary actuator such that the latch is partially received by the latch receiver and partially received by the primary actuator when the latch is in the active condition; and

a biasing member that biases the secondary actuator to the secure position and the latch to the active condition, and movement of the secondary actuator against the bias of the biasing member to the release position withdraws the latch from the latch receiver to inactivate the latch;

wherein the latch comprises at least one flange, the secondary actuator comprises a cam comprising at least one pair of arms that define a groove therebetween; and the at least one flange is slidingly received by the groove to effect the linear movement of the latch; and

wherein pivotal movement of the secondary actuator relative to the primary actuator translates into linear movement of the latch relative to the latch receiver; and

wherein the second user interaction portion is aligned with at least a portion of the first user interaction portion so that attempted movement of the primary actuator by the user out of the latched position first causes the latch to be moved from the secure position to the release position.